

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 LONDON 14027 301744Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 EB-11 COME-00 NEA-10 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /158 W

----- 127602

R 301726Z NOV 73

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5970

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

UNCLAS LONDON 14027

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, EEC, UK

SUBJECT: COMMONS DEBATE ON EC

1. SUMMARY: LABOR'S TWIN SCOURGES OF BRITISH PARTICI-  
PATION IN THE EC, PETER SHORE AND MICHAEL FOOT, HAD  
A FIELD DAY NOVEMBER 27 AS THE HOUSE OF COMMONS  
STAGED ITS FIRST FULL-SCALE DEBATE ON THE EC SINCE  
BRITISH ENTRY. GOVERNMENT SPOKESMEN GAVE BULLISH  
REPORTS ON THE RECORD OF ELEVEN MONTHS' UK MEMBERSHIP.  
THE CRITICS SCORED THE MOST DEBATING POINTS BUT THE  
GOVERNMENT WON THE FINAL VOTE BY A COMFORTABLE MAJORITY.  
END SUMMARY

2. DESPITE HECKLING AND REPEATED INTERRUPTIONS BY ANTI-  
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 LONDON 14027 301744Z

MARKET BACKBENCHERS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE HOUSE, JOHN

DAVIES, MINISTER WITH SPECIAL COORDINATING RESPONSIBILITIES FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS, DOGGEDLY PERSISTED IN DELIVERING AN UPBEAT REPORT ON THE RESULTS OF BRITAIN'S FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS IN THE EC. HE ARGUED THAT THE PROGRESS ACHIEVED BY THE ENLARGED COMMUNITY HAD BEEN LITTLE SHORT OF ASTONISHING, AND CITED VARIOUS WAYS IN WHICH THE COMMUNITY HAD BEEN "HELPFUL" TO BRITAIN, E.G. - RE. THE FLOATING POUND, CAP, REGIONAL POLICY. THE COMMUNITY WAS STEADILY MOVING FORWARD, HE SAID, AND BRITAIN HAD A VITAL ROLE THAT IT SHOULD PLAY WITH PRIDE.

3. SHORE, OF COURSE, WOULD HAVE NONE OF THIS. HE CITED FIGURES TO SHOW THAT BRITAIN'S CRUDE TRADE DEFICIT WITH ITS EC PARTNERS HAD STEADILY INCREASED. HE DISMISSED AS WISHFUL THINKING THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTENTION THAT, ONCE INSIDE THE EC, IT COULD EFFECT SIGNIFICANT CHANGES IN THE CAP. HE SAID THE PROPOSED COMMON REGIONAL POLICY WOULD NOT SERIOUSLY REDRESS THE BALANCE OF ADVANTAGE OF MEMBERSHIP TOWARDS BRITAIN, AND HE REITERATED HIS PARTY'S DETERMINATION TO RESIST THE SECOND STAGE OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION. HE ALSO DENOUNCED THE EC'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY AS "A COLLECTIVE GROVEL FOR WHICH THEY COULD ALL BE DEEPLY ASHAMED."

4. THERE WAS MORE OF THE SAME THROUGHOUT THE AFTERNOON AND EARLY EVENING, WITH ENOCH POWELL, DICK TAVERNE, AND OTHER FAMILIAR FIGURES EXCHANGING FAMILIAR ARGUMENTS. MICHAEL FOOT, SUMMING UP FOR THE OPPOSITION, DERIDED GOVERNMENT CLAIMS THAT THE RISE IN FOOD PRICES HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH ENTRY INTO THE EC. HE ALSO REJECTED CHANCELLOR BRANDT'S PROCLAIMED GOAL OF EUROPEAN UNITY. CHRIS CHATAWAY, MINISTER FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, IN SUMMING UP FOR THE GOVERNMENT, TWITTED THE LABOR PARTY FOR BOYCOTTING THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT, AND DENOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO RENEGOTIATE TERMS AS A "CHARADE." ON THE FINAL DIVISION, THE GOVERNMENT, SUPPORTED BY THE LIBERALS, WON BY A VOTE OF 285 TO 248.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 LONDON 14027 301744Z

5. COMMENT: MINDFUL THAT OPINION POLLS CONTINUE TO SHOW WIDESPREAD POPULAR DISENCHANTMENT WITH THE EC, THE GOVERNMENT IS CLEARLY ANXIOUS TO PUT THE BEST FACE POSSIBLE ON THE RECORD OF BRITISH MEMBERSHIP. AT THE SAME TIME, IT CAN TAKE HEART FROM LABOR'S APPARENT INABILITY TO EXPLOIT THE ISSUE TO ITS OWN ADVANTAGE. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE, FOR INSTANCE, TO INDICATE THAT

THE MARKET WAS A SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN ANY OF THE BY-ELECTIONS HELD THIS PAST YEAR. THE LABOR PARTY HAS ANNOUNCED ITS INTENTION TO STEP UP ITS PROPAGANDA ON THIS ISSUE, BUT EXCHANGES BETWEEN PRO- AND ANTI-MARKETEERS DURING THE COMMONS DEBATE SUGGEST THAT SUCH A MOVE STANDS AS MUCH CHANCE OF REOPENING OLD WOUNDS WITHIN THE PARTY AS OF WINNING VOTES FROM THE ELECTORATE.

ANNENBERG

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 NOV 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973LONDON14027  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** LONDON  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t1973113/aaaaabpj.tel  
**Line Count:** 125  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** hilburpw  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 09 AUG 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <09-Aug-2001 by maustmc>; APPROVED <16-Aug-2001 by hilburpw>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** COMMONS DEBATE ON EC  
**TAGS:** PFOR, UK, EEC  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005